



King County

Department of Transportation

Metro Transit Division

Community Relations and Communications

KSC-TR-0824

201 South Jackson Street

Seattle, WA 98104-3856

August 25, 2008

Tolling Implementation Committee

Bob Drewel, Executive Director, Puget Sound Regional Council

Paula Hammond, Washington State Secretary of Transportation

Dick Ford, Washington State Transportation Commission

c/o Puget Sound Regional Council

1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500

Seattle, WA 98104-1035

Dear Members of the Tolling Implementation Committee:

The King County Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) supports the use of variable tolling to help pay for construction of a new SR 520 Bridge over Lake Washington. We believe that part of the collected tolls should be allocated for increased transit service to give people a choice between driving and paying the toll or taking a fast, reliable bus trip and avoiding the toll.

At our regular meeting on Tuesday, August 12, the TAC heard a presentation from a representative of the Tolling Implementation Committee. Following the presentation, the group deliberated and unanimously authorized the following statements:

- In order to collect sufficient revenues, while keeping the toll rate as low as possible, tolling should begin on both SR 520 and I-90 as soon as possible (2010).
- A portion of variable tolling revenues should be allocated to support increased transit operations on the corridors where the tolls are collected.
- Earlier collection will also help Metro leverage a \$138 million Urban Partnership Grant for electronic tolling infrastructure and 45 new buses.
- Tolling rates should be variable to provide an incentive for off-peak travel, to improve the performance and efficiency of the bridge and to increase revenue performance each day.

Members of the Transit Advisory Committee are active bus riders who come from all parts of King County. Each member is nominated by the King County Executive and confirmed by the King County Council. Our mission is to provide advice from riders' perspectives on matters related to Metro bus service.

Members of the TAC recognize the urgency of this important public safety project. We support the use of variable tolling as a revenue source for the SR 520 bridge replacement and transit enhancements, as well as a congestion-reduction measure, and urge early implementation of its use.

Sincerely,

Miranda Leidich, Chair
King County Transit Advisory Committee

Cc: Ron Sims, King County Executive
Harold Taniguchi, Director, King County Department of Transportation
Laurie Brown, Deputy Director, King County Department of Transportation
Ron Posthuma, Assistant Director, King County Department of Transportation
Kevin Desmond, General Manager, King County Metro Transit Division
Victor Obeso, Service Development Manager, King County Metro Transit Division
Betty Gullledge-Bennett, Community Relations and Communications Manager, KCDOT
David Hull, Service Planning Supervisor, King County Metro Transit Division